



SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

All council meeting minutes and other notices are displayed on our notice board opposite Lamb's Newsagents. We also aim to deliver a Newsletter to all village households twice a year. We hope that you find it informative and would welcome your feedback.

RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK

The state of the car park at the Recreation Ground continues to cause concern to us all! Despite several well intentioned efforts to improve the surface in recent years, none has been successful. We should recall that the car park was never given a hard surface or proper drainage as it was intended mainly for occasional use by residents visiting the Pavilion or the Recreation Ground. Like all roads and public thoroughfares, however, the usage has gone up over time. The introduction of the Recycling Centre has led to further use, including by heavy vehicles. All of these factors have contributed to the deterioration of the surface.

The Parish Council has taken advice in order to find an effective long term solution. We commissioned an independent survey of the car park by a recommended company of consulting engineers, who proposed several schemes for consideration. We agreed that providing a hard surface (tarmac) was the only viable option. As per our Code of Conduct, we put this specification out for quotation to four reputable companies on the list of Chiltern & South Bucks Approved Contractors.

To date we have received 3 quotations varying in price from £22,000 to £43,000. As you may be aware, as a Parish Council, we are given a portion of YOUR council tax, our precept, which is used to provide Seer Green with certain services, one of which is maintenance of our car park. Needless to say, for such a small Council as ours, the car park is proving to be a significant drain on our finances and the decision over the solution cannot, and will not be taken lightly. The Parish Council has discussed these quotes and contacted Chiltern District Council in consideration of the continued availability of the Recycling Centre situated in the car park. We are pleased to report that the District Council has kindly agreed to provide a contribution to the cost of resurfacing. As a result, we now feel able to proceed with one of the quotes. We have

also decided to arrange independent supervision of the project to ensure that it is completed to a high standard.

We hope that the resurfacing will be carried out in early April during the schools Easter break and ask you to bear with us for a little longer in the knowledge that the course of action approved will provide us with a longer-term solution which will hopefully benefit every resident.



BEST KEPT VILLAGE RESULTS

Seer Green scored 71 points out of 100 in the 2007 Bucks Association of Local Councils Best Kept Village competition in the DeFraime Cup (for villages with a population of 1501 - 3000).

Although Seer Green did not win, the village received very positive comments from the judges:-
"The Baptist Church was satisfactory with its attractive gardens and tubs. Holy Trinity Church was very well maintained as was the cemetery in School Lane. The excellent play area was well maintained with no graffiti or litter and gave the impression of being a safe situation for children. The Parish Hall appeared in need of some care particularly to the window frames. By contrast the Jubilee Hall was good and well kept. We were impressed by the conservation area (Green Wood) with its lovely natural woodland area. The pubs and shops were good with the Three Horseshoes particularly so. The notice board by the Jubilee Hall was tidy and very informative. The overall impression was a well-cared for village."

Please note that judging for the 2008 competition is from May to July, so please help to keep the village tidy.

DESIGNATION ORDER FOR SEER GREEN

On 1st December, new rules about the consumption of alcohol came into force in Seer Green. In recent years, the Parish Council and Chiltern District Council have received regular complaints about street drinking and nuisance. With the support of Thames Valley Police, the Council has now obtained approval to introduce a Designation Order which regulates the consumption of alcohol in public places in the village. With the Designation Order in place, the Police will have powers to require a person not to drink alcohol in certain places and to surrender any alcohol in that person's possession. It will be an arrestable offence not to comply with the Police Officer's request, punishable by a fine of up to £500.

But don't worry, this does not affect drinking at home or in the pub or in any premises where a suitable permit has been obtained. In fact, the Order does not cover the whole village but just those areas where there have been regular recorded instances of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. These areas are clearly marked by signs (example below) which have been put up mainly on existing street posts.

We hope that this measure helps to continue to reduce instances of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the village and we welcome your feedback (positive or negative!) on the initiative.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG)

The NAG covering Seer Green, Chalfont St. Giles, Coleshill, Penn Street and Winchmore Hill has now been in place for a year.

The major item of concern raised by residents who attended the initial meetings was the speed of traffic within our villages. In 2007 there were several speed enforcement sessions locally that have resulted in many people receiving fixed penalty notices for speeding and other offences. In Seer Green 90% of people who received a penalty were Seer Green residents. In addition many people were stopped for exceeding the speed limit, given advice and warned but not charged. The perception that those speeding in or through the village are outsiders, is a myth. We should all be more careful about our speed and how we drive in and around Seer Green.

Fly tipping is also of concern to the NAG and currently a concerted effort is being made to identify, apprehend and prosecute offenders.

CHERRY TREES



From the nineteenth century, cherry orchards covered large areas in the centre of the village. Most of these trees have been sadly lost, however the Parish Council and several keen local residents are working hard to increase cherry tree numbers once again. Three cherries were planted in Green Meadow last month and a further tree will be planted in Jubilee Walk. Please contact the Parish Council if you have suggestions for where further trees may be planted.

SEER GREEN SOCIAL AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

A recent village survey of Seer Green residents undertaken by Reverend Gaenor Hockey and Pastor Richard Palmer indicated a strong preference for more amenities for our young people. Following on from this it was suggested the village form a Social & Sports committee to work towards increasing village facilities. These could include tennis courts, all weather pitches and skateboard ramps. This would be a long term venture, although we would seek additional support from external sources.

The Parish Council supports the formation of such a committee and would welcome the views of existing village clubs and residents.

SEER GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Regular garden and produce shows are a characteristic aspect of Chiltern village life. Seer Green has a long tradition of shows dating back to the late 19th century. In the 1930's the Flower Show was a major village event held in Mr. Boddy's Cherry Orchard (now the shops); tents were erected for fruit and vegetables, flowers, domestic produce, handicrafts and refreshments and there was a grand prize-giving. After the war the Horticultural Society resumed these traditions on a smaller scale.

In recent years the Society has held annual Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows, flower sale and buffet supper, all of which have become regular fixtures in the village calendar. These days participation is less competitive, with emphasis being on the fun of participation, socialising, and the enjoyment of maintaining a long tradition. Children particularly enjoy competing for prizes and the sense of achievement from seeing their work on display. However, the pressures of modern living mean that this is in danger of being lost. Membership numbers are dwindling, participation in and attendance at Society events has declined, and the task of running these is borne by a dedicated few. For 2008 substantial changes are being proposed to help reduce this burden, but if the Society is to remain viable it needs increasing participation from village residents. No particular skill or expertise is required; most villagers with a garden or allotment are growing something which can be exhibited, and new members or exhibitors are always welcome.

For further information please contact a committee member or the Honorary Secretaries (Mrs. Isabel Evans, tel. 676581 and Mrs. Clare Orton, tel. 676640).

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

We still have a terrible problem with dog fouling, especially on the Recreation Ground, and despite providing dog waste bins. For those who let their dogs foul, please take a moment to think of the impact of your (in)action. Recently our groundsman was sprayed with excrement when he was cutting the grass. Children have trodden in it on the pavement and walked it in to school. Residents in Farmers Way have been distressed at the amount left outside their homes.

Please stop this happening, pick it up and dispose of it responsibly!

YOUTH CLUB

Our Wednesday youth club continues to provide a wide range of activities including pool and table tennis for our young people aged 13 -19 years. The Youth Club meets in Jubilee Hall, School Lane from 7-9pm. New members are very welcome.



Members of the Youth Club working on an art project and (below) playing indoor hockey.



POLICE UPDATE

PC Gavin McVeigh holds regular Police surgeries at Seer Green Baptist Church, please look on the Parish Council notice board for dates and times.

There have been three incidents of lead stripped from roofs in Seer Green, twice at the school and once from the church. We would appeal to residents to support our efforts by reporting any suspicious vehicles/persons. If anyone has any information on the recent graffiti incidents, please let us or the Police know, phone 0845 8 505 505.

John Webb, Police Community Support Officer

THE SOCIAL SCENE IN SEER GREEN & JORDANS

The recent village survey conducted by Holy Trinity and Seer Green Baptist Church asked residents what they liked best about living in Seer Green. Many answered 'having a sense of community', although residents highlighted the need to have more activities and meeting places.

In an effort to communicate the activities already available in the village the Parish Council are reinstating the noticeboard by the shops and listed below is information on existing organisations in Seer Green and Jordans. If you would like to add events to this list please contact the Parish Clerk.

EIGHT O'CLOCK CLUB

Meet on 1st Thursday of every month (can vary) in the Parish Hall at 8.00. £2 entry. Interesting speakers and walks also arranged on summer evenings. Outings including trip to the theatre. Everyone welcome.

Contact: Monica Sado on 677851

SEER GREEN LUNCH CLUB

Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 12.30 in Seer Green Baptist Church. They would welcome new members - please join them for a two course village lunch.

To book contact: Mrs Loveday on 678325

SEER GREEN POP-IN CLUB

Meet on 1st Friday of every month from 2.00 - 4.00 in the Parish Church Hall for tea and cake.

All welcome. Contact: Mrs M Bing on 677586

SEER GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

See details in the article on page 3.

Contact: Mrs. Isabel Evans, tel. 676581 and Mrs. Clare Orton, tel. 676640

SEER GREEN & JORDANS SOCIETY

The Society promotes understanding and appreciation of the villages' histories and natural environments. They also encourage community involvement in critical decisions affecting the villages. The committee meets every 6 weeks.

Contact: info@seergreenandjordans.org.uk

SEER GREEN & JORDANS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month (apart from August) in the Baptist Church at 2.15pm. Speakers and refreshments. Come and find out about the latest facilities on offer to WI members. £27.00 per year membership.

All ladies welcome, of any age!

Contact: Miss E Lawes 671659

SEER GREEN BRIDGE CLUB

Every Thursday in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30

Contact: Irene Machin 676321

JORDANS MUSIC CLUB

Fortnightly Sundays in June and July in Jubilee Hall promoting chamber music concerts.

Contact: Chairman Marian Pell 872875

2ND SEER GREEN BROWNIES

Meet on Tuesday evenings

Contact: Mrs H O'Flanagan on 677348

SEER GREEN GIRL GUIDES

Meet on Friday evenings

Contact: Mrs P Woodley on 680751

1ST SEER GREEN SCOUT GROUP

Scouts is on Fridays and is run by

Mr C Rumsey on 874368

Cubs is on Wednesday and is run by

Mr S O'Flanagan 677348

Beavers is on Monday and is run by Mrs Oswald on 674337 who also manages the waiting lists.

'THE COFFEE SHOP'

Meet every Monday from 10.30 until 12.00 in the lounge of Seer Green Baptist Church. All are invited, both church goers and non church goers, and where they hope you will find a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

SEER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Weekly events:-

'Torchlight' - Youth Club for 8-12s on Mon at 6pm

Youth Club for 12s-16s on Mon at 7.30pm

Toddler Group - Wed at 10am

Youth Social Group - Thursday at 8.00

Little Drum Music for Pre-school children on

Friday at 9.30.

For more information on Sunday services, week day house groups and fellowship please phone Richard Palmer on 677266 or visit www.seergreenbaptistchurch.org

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The church is open every day to visit. Services are on Sunday at 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.00pm.

A week day service is also on Wed at 10.00am

Contact: Revd Gaenor Hockey 675013

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

Liz Bates

Gerston, Back Lane,

Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB

email: BatesTJ@AOL.com

Tel 874233

Fax 875981